

WAR MAY FREE RELICS SACRED TO CHRISTIANITY

ONE of the most desirable results of the present world war will be the elimination of Turkey as a power and the liberation of the territories under her yoke, including the Holy Land, with all the sites of Biblical history and the Savior's life, for so many years in Moslem hands.

Then, at last, we shall see an end of the outrageous conditions that allow the barbarous Turks to control the holy city of Jerusalem, with the sepulcher of the Savior, the temple of Solomon and its other almost innumerable sacred sites.

Christian civilization has gained some rights in Jerusalem, but in other sacred places of the Holy Land Christians are entirely shut out by the Turks or must venture there at the risk of their lives.

In Jerusalem the American tourist could, before the war, visit such sites as the garden of Gethsemane, with the olive tree where the Savior was betrayed by Judas and the garden tomb of Jesus, near Mount Calvary.

Many of the most interesting parts of Jerusalem have, however, not been open to the visitor or the explorer. Chief among these is the site of the temple of Solomon, which cannot be touched by a Christian or a Hebrew because it is occupied by a Mohammedan mosque.

Excavations in the temple area may still reveal the altar of sacrifice, the brazen altar, the table of show bread, molten sea and various other sacred objects mentioned in the Bible.

The palace of Solomon, where he received the queen of Sheba, is a building concerning which great interest is naturally felt. It was "built of the cedars of Lebanon." When the stories of Herod's palace are unearthed it is not improbable that beneath these may be found the cedars of Solomon's building, for in those times they had a habit of building on the ruins of their predecessors.

A notable instance of a Biblical site of extraordinary interest from which investigators are entirely excluded is the tomb of Abraham and the Hebrew patriarchs at Hebron in Palestine. It was here that Abraham, the forefather of all the Israelites, dwelt with his family, as the book of Genesis tells us.

Before he died Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite as a burial place for himself and his family (Genesis 17). The site of the cave of Hebron has been known from time immemorial. It was known in early Christian times, and in the days of the Savior. No confusion has ever arisen as to its position, such as has occurred in the case of other Bible sites.

The cave of Machpelah is situated within an enclosure called the Haram, formed by a gigantic Herodian wall. Above the cave stands a church built by the crusaders in 1187, but since converted into a mosque and for many centuries in the possession of the Turks.

In the cave were buried Abraham, his wife, Sarah; his son, Isaac; the latter's wife, Rebekah; Jacob, son of Isaac; Leah, wife of Jacob, and Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel. In the mosque above the cave are monuments in the form of tombs to Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Leah and Joseph, but they do not include the actual bones. These are presumably in the cave below. The Mohammedans venerate the Hebrew patriarchs, although they oppress their descendants.

Ordinarily Christians and Hebrews are not even allowed to enter the Haram surrounding the mosque. Occasionally Christians of great influence, such as the king of England's heir, have been permitted to enter the mosque.

Recently photographs were taken for the first time of the six cenotaphs or memorial tombs of the patriarchs within the mosque. These are reproduced in a recent report of the Palestine exploration fund, which gives some very interesting information about the building.

"In the church pavement," says the Rev. A. B. Grimaldi in this article, "are three movable slabs which give access by ladder or rope to the cave. But two are fastened up, and not even Moslems are allowed to enter by the third. It is used to throw down written petitions to Abraham; and, looking down, the floor is seen to be covered as with snowflakes."

"When King George V (then prince of Wales) visited the mosque a light was let down, and the rocky sides were seen and a doorway entering out of this antechamber into the tomb cave itself. With the granting of freedom to the inhabitants of Palestine the representatives of religion and science will be able to enter this mysterious cave and disclose its contents to the world."

Around Hebron center all the interesting events of the patriarchal age recorded in the Bible. Here Abraham prepared to sacrifice his own son, Isaac, in obedience to the will of God, Jacob labored seven years for Rachel, and Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. From here Joseph started on his fateful journey to Egypt.

A remarkably interesting relic affected by the war is the monastery of St. Catherine, on Mount Sinai, shown in one of the accompanying photographs. This occupies the traditional spot where the Lord delivered the ten commandments to Moses.

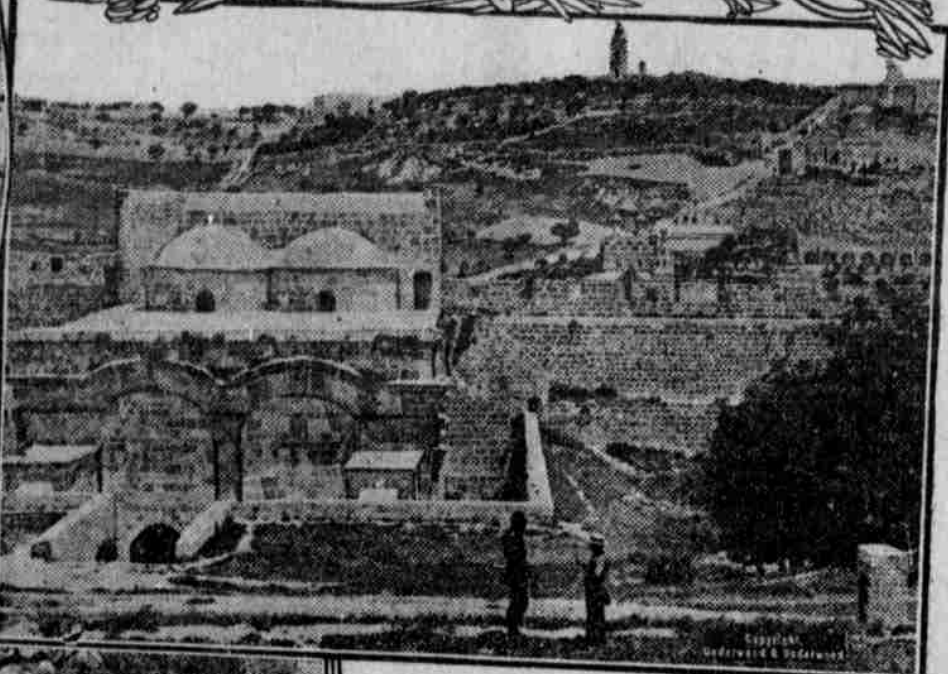
In the library of this monastery was recently



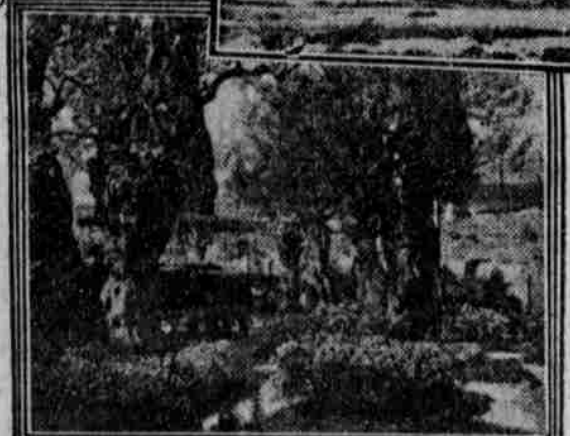
JACOB'S WELL



WHERE MOSES DELIVERED THE COMMANDMENTS



GATE WHERE CHRIST MADE HIS ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM



GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE AS IT APPEARS TODAY

found the oldest known manuscript of the Bible.

The monks have occupied this ancient monastery for about 1,800 years, since the foundation of the Christian religion. This monastery lies along the route by which the Turks were reported to be advancing to attack the British defenders of Egypt. It is possible that the peaceful inmates of this very ancient sacred building may be driven out by war.

At the foot of the mountain lies "the plain of assembly," where the Israelites waited for Moses to bring down the laws to them.

Persons who have read about certain modern enterprises in Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land may have gained an idea that the Turk has become more amiable in recent years. This is a mistake. You can only get anything from the Turk by paying him exorbitantly, and this is not always possible.

"Until recently," writes the Rev. Lewis B. Paton, professor of Old Testament history in Hartford Theological seminary, "no permits for excavation were given by the government, and when, under European pressure, firms were at last granted, these were hedged around with so many restrictions that they were of little practical value. According to the present Turkish law of antiquities, the consent of the local authorities must first be secured before a permit will be issued in Constantinople. To obtain this a lavish expenditure of money is necessary in order to overcome the fanaticism and prejudice of the provincial authorities."

"The site desired for exploration must be purchased at a price estimated by the owners. After local permission is secured endless delay and bakshish are necessary before an edict can be secured from the central government. When at last it is obtained a Turkish commissioner, whose expenses are paid by the excavator, must be constantly in attendance to decide what may and what may not be done, and all antiquities discovered must be turned over to the imperial Ottoman museum. These conditions stand in disagreeable contrast to the liberal provisions in Egypt, where any competent person is allowed to excavate, and is required only to divide his finds with the Cairo museum."

"At the beginning the exploration of Palestine was confined to the study of places and objects that remained above ground. Edward Robinson, the distinguished American archaeologist and professor in Union Theological seminary, New York, in a series of journeys carried on during the years following 1838, and the French scholar, Querin, ascertained the modern names of many localities, and succeeded in identifying them with places mentioned in the Bible. The Palestine exploration fund, founded in England in 1865, and largely supported by American contributors, conducted an elaborate survey of Palestine, whose results were embodied in their 'Great Way of Palestine,' which is still the standard. 'Other explorations were carried on at Jeru-

salem since 1867, and a little digging was done outside the present city limits to determine the lines of the ancient walls. In the course of the superficial study of the land a number of important monuments were discovered still standing upon the surface. In 1868 the German missionary, Klein, discovered an inscription of Mesha, king of Moab, who is mentioned in II Kings 3. In 1880 some boys, playing in the conduit which leads to the pool of Siloam, discovered an inscription in ancient Hebrew characters dating from the time of King Hezekiah. In 1891 Schumacher discovered a monument of Rameses II (1292 B. C.), who was probably the Pharaoh who oppressed the children of Israel in Egypt, and in 1901 Prof. George Adam Smith discovered a beautiful stele of Seti I, the father of Rameses II."

The Harvard expedition at Samaria in 1909-1910 discovered remains of the palace of the Hebrew kings Omri and Ahab, and in one of its chambers potsherds were found containing business accounts written in a character similar to that of the Siloam inscription.

These discoveries are only a beginning of the exploration of Palestine. The sites excavated, except that of Samaria, are relatively unimportant towns. The great religious centers of antiquity, such as Hebron, Jerusalem, Bethel and Dan, remain unexplored. Hundreds of large mounds exist all over the country, within which the records of ancient times are deposited one above the other in chronological order. It is not unreasonable to expect that, if these mounds could be explored thoroughly many more Babylonian tablets such as those found at Tanach would be discovered.

Perhaps even a whole library might be unearthed in such a place as Kirjath-Sepher, whose name means "Book Town." Since Hebrew inscriptions have been found already there is no reason why more might not be found, or why even manuscripts might not be discovered sealed up in earthen jars, which, as we know from Jeremiah 32:14, was the custom of the Hebrews. Think how the world would be startled if some of the lost books mentioned in the Old Testament were rediscovered, or ancient manuscripts of some of the canonical books!

Not only the sacred places of the Holy Land but the most famous sites of the ancient and classical world, barring those of Greece and Rome, lie under the clutches of the unspeakable Turk. Among them are Constantinople, Troy, Babylon, Nineveh, Damascus, Tyre, Sidon, Arbela and many others.

Before the war French archeologists had just begun some very interesting researches at Constantinople. They have now partially laid bare the ruins of the palace of Constantine, which, of course, is of great interest as the residence of the emperor who gave his name to the city. This amazing building covered a space of many acres, including quarters, baths and every luxury for the one thousand persons who composed the imperial household and the guards of the palace.

It surpasses incomparably both in extent and splendor the palace of the Caesars at Rome, and yet it is probably equalled in interest by many of the other ruins in the city.

Few Americans realize the extraordinary interest of Constantinople and the strange manner in which the wealth of the ages has been locked up in it. Constantinople has a longer continuous history than any other great city in the world.

Everybody hopes that one of the first results of the war will be to free this ancient center of culture and Christianity, as well as the Holy Land, from the horrible, barbarous Turks.

WHO IS WHO NOW

SWITZERLAND'S NEW PRESIDENT



Dr. Giuseppe Motta, who has been vice-president of the Swiss Confederation and head of the financial department, has been elected president, being the first Italian to head the little republic. He was born at Airolo, in the canton of Ticino (the Italian-speaking canton of the republic) in the year 1871 and studied law at the universities of Fribourg, Munich and Heidelberg. In 1896 he started his practice as a lawyer in his native village and in the same year he was elected deputy of the state council.

In 1899 he became a representative of his canton in the national council. As chief of the Catholic-Conservative party of his canton he immediately began to play a prominent role in politics, and when, in December, 1911, after the death of one of the members of the federal council, he became a candidate for that office, he also received the undivided support of the radical party of the canton of

Ticino. The young magistrate assumed from the beginning the responsible burden of the federal finances.

The office of president of the Swiss confederation provides by no means a lucrative income, compared with the high salaried government positions in this country. Up to two years ago the yearly income of the chief magistrate of the republic amounted to \$3,000 only, and it was then raised to \$4,000, which sum is now considered a very good salary.

HUSSEIN, SULTAN OF EGYPT

The new sultan of Egypt, Prince Hussein Kamel, is a brother of the Khedive Tewfik and an uncle of the deposed Khedive Abbas II. He is a son of that magnificent Ismail, so beloved of the De Lesseps and the money brokers, who bankrupted his country to build the canal for the English to inherit, with the idea of making Cairo another Paris. He was a young man when his father was deposed and forced to leave the country. He went with him into exile and brought him back to Cairo for burial in 1895.

Like his father and his brother, Prince Hussein was educated in Paris, where he came under the fascinating sway of the Empress Eugenie. Ismail seated himself upon the khedival throne by arranging the "accidental" death of the other heir, but Hussein has learned the more "civilized" method of intrigue. He is an accomplished Parisian gentleman, whose pronounced English sympathies can be tolerated as harmless, since the British have placed themselves in a position to make any French influence in Egypt innocuous. It can be taken for granted that he will be an obedient tool in the hands of the high commissioner for Egypt, Lieut. Col. Sir Arthur Henry McMahon, who goes to Egypt after having served as foreign secretary of India for three years.



ALL BULLETS MISS HIM



Old Count von Haeseler, the retired German field marshal, is playing a unique role in this war. Some twenty years ago military men, both German and foreign, were accustomed to look to him as leader of Germany's armies in the event of a war, as he had acquired a great reputation as a strategist. But the war did not come in time to give him his great opportunity. He had fought through three wars—against Denmark in 1864, against Austria in 1866, and against France in 1870, but he was then too young to attain high rank, and when the present war broke out he was too old to command an army.

Though he was approaching his seventy-ninth year, he went to the kaiser, it is said, and begged permission to accompany the troops into France, pleading humorously that he had lost a rib there in 1870 which he wanted to find.

Haeseler got the kaiser's consent and for weeks he was following the German armies, astonishing the soldiers with his utter contempt of danger.

It has repeatedly occurred that the count has ridden in the firing line of the infantry while making an attack. The men were advancing only by rushes and leaning low to the ground; but Haeseler would ride calmly forward with his attendant, the target of French rifles.

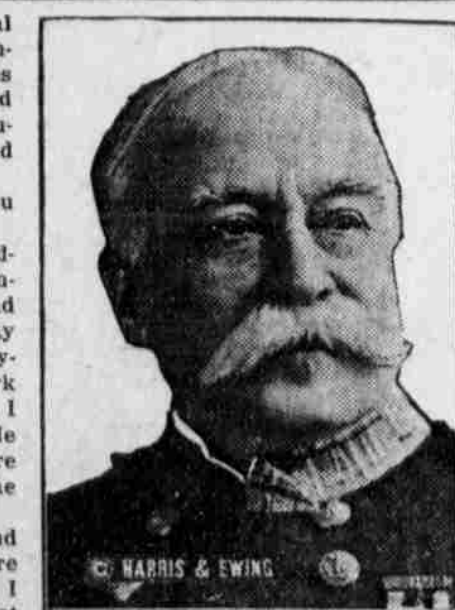
YOUTHFUL ADMIRAL DEWEY

On the occasion of Admiral George Dewey's seventy-seventh birthday Secretary Daniels and all his aides and bureau and division chiefs called on the veteran sea-fighter to congratulate him, and Mr. Daniels remarked to him:

"I hope you feel as young as you look."

"I am young yet," responded Admiral Dewey, quickly. "I do not intend to be outdone by my friend and neighbor, ex-Senator Henry Gassaway Davis of West Virginia, who is ninety-two. Davis comes home from work at five o'clock in the afternoon and I ask him why he works so late. He explains that he had a great deal more to do, but he quit early to give the boys in the office a rest."

"Now and then I meet Davis and he says, 'Admiral, we must see more of each other as the days go on.' I say 'Yes,' and then Davis calls at



nine o'clock in the evening, and when the servant tells him that I have retired for the night, he goes away swearing because I went to bed so early."

"But, Mr. Secretary, I get up every morning at five o'clock. I doubt if many of these gentlemen here can say as much. I am a hard worker, but I get plenty of sleep."